



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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STATEMENT OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISORS DAVID BOWEN AND RUSSELL STAMPER II ON THE TRAYVON MARTIN CASE:

“Our prayers and thoughts are with the Trayvon Martin family. It is dispiriting that in the United States a young black child is unable to walk down the street in his own neighborhood without being racially profiled and ultimately killed. Unfortunately, this is the reality that the African American community experiences and must deal with every day. The ‘not guilty’ verdict in the Martin case was wrong and sends a message that ‘stand your ground’ laws and ‘castle doctrine’ laws justify the killing of black youths.

“The shooting of Trayvon Martin was tragic and unjust. The verdict was slap in the face to the African American community. The verdict was shocking but not surprising. Too often in this society laws are unfairly applied against young black males, as evidenced by the disproportionate number of arrests and the unequal imprisonment of African American males compared with whites.

“It’s painful to see anyone become the victim of gun violence, but when one is shot and killed for no reason it becomes even more horrifying. Of course we need order in this society, but laws like ‘stand your ground’ and the ‘castle doctrine’ need to be repealed. As we go forward as a community, we cannot afford not to stick together. We must all demand justice and equality. This means holding elected officials, public servants, police officers and others accountable for ensuring that justice and fair treatment are parts of the system accessible to all of us.

“After all is said and done, an unarmed young child was walking home in his own neighborhood. He was shot and killed for no reason, and no one was held accountable. A mother and father have lost their son to unjustified gun violence. This is a grave tragedy and a heavy blow against racial progress in this country.”

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